(b) Does not arise.

(c) Police verification is required to comply with certain statutory proisions of the Passports Act which are based on considerations of national sovereignty, integrity and security.

[*Translation*]

**Development of Central Security Forces in Naxalite Affected States**

1602. SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of companies of Central Security Forces deployed in Madhya Pradesh and other naxalite affected States during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the details of financial assistance provided by the Union Government to those States during each of the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) There was no deployment of paramilitary forces for anti-naxalite operations in Madhya Pradesh and other Naxalite affected States during the last three years except in Andhra Pradesh where the average deployment was as follows:-

1989 - 7 Coys.

1990 - 8 Coys.

1991 - 25 Coys.

(b) No Financial assistance was provided to any of these States, on this account.

[*English*]

**Sunflower Seeds**

1603. DR. Y.S. RAJASEKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the production of Sun-flower seeds during 1991-92, State-wise;

(b) whether mexican beetle is found to be effective in controlling the parthenium weed, which is devouring sunflower plants; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The rabi/summer sunflower crop is still in the field and it is still somewhat early to arrive at firm estimates of production for 1991-92.

(b) and (c). The Mexican beetle has been found to be an effective biological control agent of parthenium weed under field conditions in Bangalore and surrounding areas. Reports that this beetle devours sunflower plants have been found to be baseless.

**Winding up of Trade Mission and Information Centres of Erstwhile USSR in India**

1604. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of EXERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the trade mission and information centres of erstwhile USSR in India are likely to be wound up ; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Government have been informed by the Russian authorities that the Trade Representation of the former USSR continues to perform its functions as the Trade Representation of the Russian Federation in India.

As regards the information centres, Government have no information that the Russian authorities intend to close them.

(b) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

**Gas and Oil Reserves near Bombay High**

1605. SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether gas and Oil reserves have been found near the Bombay High;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to utilise them?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (c). During 1991-92, a total of 3 oil and 2 gas strikes have been made in the Western Offshore. More work is required to be done to establish the extent of reserves.

[*English*]

**Hindi Training to Non-Hindi Speaking Officials**

1606. SHRI PROBIN DEKA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total strength of Non-Hindi speaking Officials in the Union Government offices located in the North East Region;

(b) the number out of them have been given training in Hindi so far and number out of them are yet to be given training;

(c) the action plan to give training in Hindi to the remaining Non-Hindi speaking officials;

(d) whether there has been a downward trend in the number of officials appearing in the Departmental Hindi examinations i.e. Prabodh, Praveen and Pragya during the last three years; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF THE PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) 18,056.

(b) (i) Trained - 1,254.

(ii) Yet to be trained - 16,802.

(c) Whereever sufficient number of trainees are available, full time training Centres under the Hindi Teaching Scheme have been set up. Elsewhere part-time centres have also been set up to meet the lower training requirements. Apart from this, training centres under departmental arrangements are also run in some cases. Employees are provided incentives for passing prescribed examinations under the Hindi Teaching Scheme through their own efforts as well.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.